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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

SECRET

SECURITY INFORMATION

25X1

INFORMATION REPORT

REPORT NO.

CD NO.

DATE DISTR.

13 February 1953

NO. OF PAGES 2

NO. OF ENCLS. 1 (1 page)
(LISTED BELOW)

SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

25X1

COUNTRY Czechoslovakia

SUBJECT 1. Chemical Training in the Army
 2. Indication of High Command Interest in
 Bacteriological Warfare Propaganda Material

DATE OF INFO:

PLACE
ACQUIRED

25X1

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

25X1

25X1 25X1 1. The only gas training [] was given [] in the Czech Army. [] no
25X1 such training [] the SNB and the PS. []
25X1 [] believe
25X1 25X1 that it took the EM [] up to 90 seconds to put on a mask; []
25X1 within what time limit the masks had to be on. [] the mask was of Czech
25X1 manufacture. All EM [] had the same type of gas mask; the only difference
was that some were green and others were gray, and they had two types of filters
[See Encl (A)].

25X1 2. []
[] given information on the color, the effect and the smell of gases, as well
25X1 as any possible first aid procedures that could be utilized. [] some
gases could not be detected by either sight or smell. [] given
instructions on mustard, lewisite and phosgene. [] 25X1

3. Three or four times during basic training [] 25X1
traverse an area covered with
white smoke. The smoke was produced by green metal smoke candles, 25 cm long and
12.5 cm in diameter, which were set out at intervals of 50 m. There was a hole in the
top of each candle through which an igniting wick protruded. Smoke from each candle
covered a 15 x 25 m. area and rose to a height of about four m. Since the exercise
25X1 was designed to acquaint troops with smoke screens [] walked through the smoke with-
25X1 out a gas mask. [] no markings on the candles, and could not tell where they
were manufactured.

25X1 4. [] never saw decontaminating or delousing equipment in the Czech Army or in the PS.
All Czech military personnel were, however, given an anti-typhus inoculation once
CLASSIFICATION SECRET yearly.

[illegible]

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- 25X1 5. [] not aware of any chemical warfare schools in the CSR and the [] 25X1
- 25X1 6. [] never received any training or lectures on defense against bacterio-
25X1 logical and atomic weapons. [] read in Czech newspapers about the
use of bacteriological warfare agents by United Nations troops in Korea.
- 25X1 7. [] PS border guards noticed insects in the
snow. Since PS guards had orders to report any unusual insects, they
called the PS company Hq and were told to collect a few specimens in a
glass jar. The PS company called the BM Hq, which in turn informed the
PS Brigade Hq. The Brigade Hq ordered the company to send the collected
specimens by motorcycle messenger. The Brigade Hq then called the PS
Hq in Praha [5005N-1428E], and the latter sent a medical commission
from Praha to the PS Brigade Hq in Susice [4914N-1331E]. The commission
was to examine the insects in order to prove the suspected use of
bacteriological warfare agents by Western Powers. 25X1
8. The commission was composed of six medical officers, with ranks of
lieutenant to major. []
[]
Although the commission declared the insects to be a common, harmless
type of beetle, (Tesarik) free of any harmful bacteria, the Brigade 25X1
Hq still sent several PS intelligence officers to the border area in
question. They were to talk to foresters and to check on any unusual
insects, unusual damage to trees, etc; a futile effort, []
to find evidence of bacteriological agents in the area.
- 25X1 9. [] no further information on CW, BW and RW training, production and
25X1 research. Nor [] have information on guided missiles, infra-red rays
or other scientific developments.

Enclosure (A): Czech Gas Masks Used in 1949

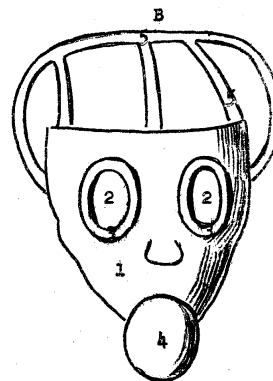
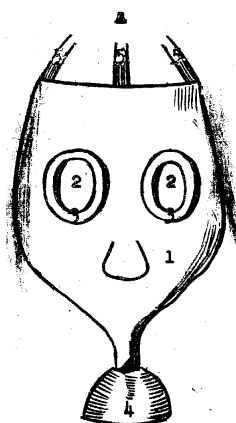
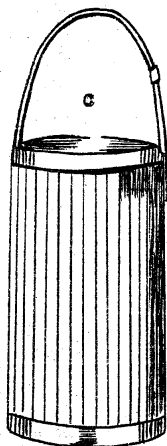
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Enclosure A

Czech Gas Masks Used in 1949



Legend

A&B. Models of Czech gas masks.

1. Rubber forepiece
2. Glass eyepiece
3. Metal rim
4. Metal filter container and filter
5. Head adjusting straps

C. Carrier

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